

**Introduced by Senator Galgiani**

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May 26, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to 2015 California Invasive Species Action Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 68, as introduced, Galgiani. California Invasive Species Action Week.

This measure would declare June 6, 2015, to June 14, 2015, inclusive, as the 2015 California Invasive Species Action Week and would urge all Californians to participate in activities that raise awareness of invasive species issues and to take action to prevent their spread.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Invasive species threaten California's environment,
- 2 economy, water, natural resources, agriculture, and climate
- 3 adaptation; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Department of Food and Agriculture, the
- 5 Natural Resources Agency, and four other state agencies have
- 6 endorsed a Strategic Framework for Protecting California from
- 7 Invasive Species; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Invasive species include plants, animals, insects,
- 9 diseases, and other biological organisms that are nonnative to
- 10 California; and

1 WHEREAS, Invasive species spread more rapidly with  
2 increasing global travel and commerce, at great cost to human and  
3 animal health as well as economic security; and

4 WHEREAS, The destructive impact of invasive species is  
5 profound, affecting California's cropland, rangeland, forests, parks,  
6 wildlands, and waterways, and causing enormous losses of private,  
7 state, and federal resources through decreased land productivity,  
8 degradation of wildlife habitat, and outright destruction of crops,  
9 livestock, wetlands, watersheds, and recreational areas; and

10 WHEREAS, Invasive species are a factor in damaging habitat  
11 for nearly half of the species federally listed as threatened or  
12 endangered, and in California, 415 special status species are  
13 threatened by invasive plants alone; and

14 WHEREAS, Scientists estimate the costs to prevent, monitor,  
15 and control invasive species combined with the costs of damages  
16 to crops, fisheries, forests, and other natural resources cost the  
17 United States \$137 billion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, In California quagga and zebra mussels have altered  
19 ecosystems, water quality, and food webs, fouled shorelines and  
20 watercraft, clogged water intakes and conveyances, and cost the  
21 state, water agencies and municipalities, and watercraft owners  
22 hundreds of millions of dollars since their introduction in 2007;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Invasive pests like the European grapevine moth,  
25 Asian citrus psyllid, and glassy-winged sharpshooter can cause  
26 major damage to California's agricultural crops, invasive plants  
27 damage rangeland productivity, and other invasive pests like the  
28 gold-spotted oak borer and polyphagous shothole borer threaten  
29 our forests; and

30 WHEREAS, Incurable invasive plant diseases, such as  
31 huanglongbing, transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid, and Pierce's  
32 disease, transmitted by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, are serious  
33 threats to California's citrus and grape-growing industries,  
34 respectively, and have already shown severe and widespread  
35 damage to these agricultural crops both nationally and  
36 internationally; and

37 WHEREAS, Invasive plants damage rangeland productivity,  
38 and noxious and invasive weeds have destroyed large portions of  
39 riparian habitat along creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and  
40 other bodies of freshwater in California, damaging the integrity

1 of the riparian system by altering erosion, sedimentation, flooding,  
2 and fire; and

3 WHEREAS, Invasive aquatic plants, such as water hyacinth,  
4 *Egeria densa*, and spongeplant, have significantly degraded  
5 ecosystems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by severely  
6 choking waterways, altering water quality, destroying aquatic  
7 habitat, obstructing recreation and navigation, and clogging  
8 infrastructure and equipment, vastly increasing commercial  
9 operating costs and costing the state millions of dollars, annually;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The invasive weed *Arundo donax* (giant reed) has  
12 established large colonies across the state, most notably in southern  
13 California, where in one 10,000-acre area of riparian habitat the  
14 weed has been estimated to consume more than 30,000 acre-feet  
15 of water each year, or enough water to meet the yearly freshwater  
16 needs of 150,000 persons; and

17 WHEREAS, The invasive weed yellow star-thistle has infested  
18 more than 14.3 million acres, making it the most common invasive  
19 plant in California, choking out native plants, and killing horses  
20 who eat its poisonous early season growth; and

21 WHEREAS, Pathways for the spread of harmful nonnative  
22 weeds are many and varied, involving both accidental and  
23 intentional introductions, and could be reduced by increased  
24 awareness of the dangers posed by even seemingly innocuous  
25 plants that are transplanted to a different ecosystem; and

26 WHEREAS, The federal government, through the United States  
27 Department of Agriculture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
28 and several other agencies, maintains programs to prevent, control,  
29 and manage invasive species; and

30 WHEREAS, The State of California, through the Department  
31 of Food and Agriculture, the Natural Resources Agency, and  
32 several other agencies, maintains several invasive species  
33 management programs and public awareness campaigns for the  
34 purpose of preventing invasive species entry, reporting and  
35 mapping new detections, and controlling and eradicating existing  
36 populations; and

37 WHEREAS, The State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Update has  
38 identified invasive species as the most prevalent and widely  
39 identified threat to the state's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant  
40 resources, and the habitats upon which they depend; and

1 WHEREAS, These programs to prevent, control, manage, and  
2 eradicate invasive species have emphasized information sharing,  
3 education, and public awareness as crucial to the success of  
4 prevention, control, and eradication efforts; and

5 WHEREAS, The National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate  
6 Adaptation Strategy, the President's Council on Climate  
7 Preparedness' Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience  
8 of America's Natural Resources, and the President's State, Local  
9 and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and  
10 Resilience, and Safeguarding California, our state's climate  
11 adaptation plan, recommend action to control invasive species as  
12 a means to improve climate resiliency; and

13 WHEREAS, The 24-member California Invasive Species  
14 Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of public  
15 awareness and engagement on the issue of invasive species; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares June 6,  
19 2015, to June 14, 2015, inclusive, as the 2015 California Invasive  
20 Species Action Week; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That on the occasion of California Invasive Species  
22 Action Week, the Legislature encourages all Californians to  
23 participate in activities that raise awareness of invasive species  
24 issues and take action to prevent their spread; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.